

References

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- Goss, H. 1886. *Oxygastra Curtisi*, Dale, in Hampshire. *Ent. mon. Mag.*, 23: 91.
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A STRANGE METHOD OF CAPTURING A LEPIDOPTERON. — I have caught many sphingids and other Lepidoptera in various parts of the world, but never by a stranger method than that employed recently.

I was fishing, singularly unsuccessfully, for black bass at the Ebenezer dam in northern Transvaal (near Haenertsburg) and in the fading light of a summer evening decided to attach a white float to my line. A moment after my first cast using the new "rig" I was rewarded with a sharp impact and the rod came alive in my hands — but lo and behold my float bobbed quietly on the water and there was no fish on the hook. It took a few moments to realize that a sphingid had flown full tilt into the "eye" at the end of my rod where it had wedged itself, its wings beating furiously but helplessly, and causing the rod to vibrate as if I had hooked an ESCOM power-line.

Having freed the "monster" and sent it on its way, I retrieved my line and prepared for another cast. A sphingid dived past me and hovered over an upturned bottle top glowing whitely in the grass behind me. Its "tongue" was out and if ever I saw a moth licking its chops it was that moth. As I cast, the sphingid turned and zoomed after the white float as it looped through the air. And when the float smacked down on the water the moth hovered over it predatorially, before darting off over the marshes and tree-lined banks in search of more rewarding "flowers".

Thereafter, hardly a cast was not investigated by some passing moth, and if there had been a butterfly-net, instead of a hook attached to my line, I've a feeling that my "bag" would have been a good deal greater. Now I know that attracting insects to u.v. lamps at night is old hat, and that *Morpho* and other butterflies are lured within net-reach by placing a dead specimen on the ground, but has anyone ever thought of luring sphingids to a "flower sized" white disc placed conveniently on the lawn (perhaps a moving disc is even more attractive), or else placing a white plastic ball inside your net and letting the beasts fly right in? — M. J. WELLS, Botanical Research Institute, Pretoria.

BLAIR'S SHOULDER-KNOT IN CORNWALL. — With reference to the record of this species in Wales (*Ent. Rec.*, 91: 322), I wish to report the capture of a single male in an actinic light trap at Veryan, Cornwall. The trap was situated on the beach in wait for migrants on the evening of the 23rd October 1979. — COLIN HART, 86 Brighton Road, Hooley, Coulsden, Surrey.